

August 31, 2020 Covid Update

Selectman Maura Curran reminded residents that the State Primary is tomorrow (Sept. 1) with voting at the high school from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Masks are required and voters should maintain social distancing. She gave a shout out to Town Clerk Kathleen Gardner and her staff for their hard work in preparing for the election.

Ms. Curran also reminded residents that at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Sept. 1), there is a Zoom meeting on the status of the Egypt Beach berm project. For the link to the meeting and more details visit <https://www.scituatema.gov>.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said for the second week in a row, Scituate has had new COVID cases. This past week, the town had three new cases, two from the same household. The town has now moved from white to green on the state's color-coded map for the virus.

Scituate's water ban that allows watering by hand-held-cans only is still in effect. The reservoir is still at 39 percent. The water plant treated 580,000 gallons a day over the past week, that is down almost 400,000 gallons from the prior two weeks.

The DEP has approved the chemical to remove manganese in the reservoir. Application will start this week. For more information and for conservation tips, visit the Water Resource Update Page at <https://www.scituatema.gov/water-resources-committee/pages/2018-water-conservation-tips>

Mr. Boudreau said the Cedar Point sewer project starts next Tuesday (Sept. 8) and continues through May 21, 2021. The project will affect traffic flow. A signboard has been placed to alert folks to disruptions.

Mr. Boudreau said smaller stones are being used for the Egypt Beach berm project. Plans are to bury the new stones under the existing stones. He encouraged residents to get on the Zoom call at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 1) for more information. The link is posted on scituatema.gov.

The school athletic fields are substantially complete with some punch list items remaining. Mr. Boudreau said the fields, which have been lined for fall sports, have been turned over to the town. Interested groups need a permit through the Recreation Department to use the fields.

Mr. Boudreau said U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch and the Plymouth County Commission are presenting a check to the town for just over \$300,000 as reimbursement through the CARES Act. The money covers COVID related expenses. About half-a-million dollars has been reimbursed with about another half million pending. He said the money that comes through the county from the federal government takes a “big load off of us.”

Nicole Brandolini of the School Committee reported that the committee attended a Mass. Assoc. of School Committees workshop last week to get a better understanding of the superintendent evaluation process.

She also said more than 200 people were on the School Committee Zoom meeting last week and hoped that a high level of participation would continue. She invited interested citizens to attend the Zoom meeting tonight (Aug. 31).

Supt. of Schools William Burkhead praised the work on the athletic fields. He is looking forward to seeing laughter, games and fun on the fields as the months progress. The schools have welcomed back teachers and para-professionals, who are hard at work preparing for the start of school Sept. 16.

Scituate Public Schools has established a medical advisory committee to develop criteria for school opening and transitioning between phases.

He said the goal is to be best district in the world including transparency, strong communication and inclusion of all stakeholders. One such example is the commitment to the highest-level of safety for students, staff and community as they enter the buildings. Relevant documents are available at scituate.k12.ma.us.

Mr. Burkhead said the schools have never been in better shape. He said the crisis has provided the opportunity to reimagine the schools, creating something new and exciting for students.